

67th YEAR

VOLUME 67
NUMBER 11

AMERICANS QUIT BELGIAN RELIEF ON GERMAN ORDER

Members of Commission Ex-
pelled From Devastated
Section.

ALSO FORCIBLY DRIVEN
FROM NORTHERN FRANCE

Director Gregory Advised to Ar-
range for All His Men to
Leave at Once.

STATE DEPARTMENT NOTIFIED

Ends Two Years and a Half of De-
voted Service in Administering
to Stricken People.

(By Associated Press)

LONDON, February 12.—The American Commission for Relief in Belgium officially notified the German authorities that the Americans will withdraw from participation in the relief work in Belgium and Northern France.

This step was taken in reply to an order from the German authorities that Americans must withdraw from the provinces of Belgium and Northern France, leaving only a few of their representatives, headed by Brand Whitlock, American minister to Belgium, in Brussels. The action of the commission is explained in the following statement, which was given to the Associated Press today by directors of the commission in London:

"We were advised February 12 by Director Warren C. Gregory, from Brussels, that Baron von der Lancken (Geyer Governor of Gravelines) had notified him that American citizens could no longer occupy positions in connection with the commission in the occupied territories of France and Belgium, but that a few Americans, among them Brand Whitlock, might reside in Brussels and exercise partial supervision over the works. Mr. Whitlock, however, was to have no diplomatic standing. Further, automobile and other means of communication would be denied American."

OFFICIALLY WITHDRAW

FROM PARTICIPATION

"After earnest consideration with Ambassador Page, the directors of the commission in London, agreeing in accord with Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the commission, instructed Mr. Gregory to inform the German authorities that in view of their order that the Americans could no longer exercise their functions in the occupied territories, and that as under these conditions the American members of the commission could no longer carry out their responsibilities and undertaken to other interested governments and fulfill their duties toward the peoples of Belgium and Northern France, the Americans would officially withdraw from participation in the work of relief in the occupied districts."

"Mr. Gregory was advised to arrange for all his men to leave Belgium immediately, except a few who are to close the commission's affairs and take steps to see that there be no interruption in the services pending the reorganization of the work."

HOOVER PRIME MOVER

IN RELEVE COMMITTEE

The American commission for Relief in Belgium was the outgrowth of an American committee formed in London at the outbreak of the war, which aided stranded tourists to reach their homes from Paris and London. Herbert C. Hoover was the prime mover in both organizations. Contributions from both neutrals and belligerents have supported the commission, which has chartered ships to take foodstuffs and other supplies to Belgium for distribution through American citizens to the needy persons in Belgium and Northern France. More than 10,000,000 persons were daily dependent on the commission, which expended about \$10,000,000 a month for their relief.

The initial negotiations in 1914 with the various belligerent governments to permit of relief supplies being taken into the occupied territory were carried on through the American commissioners in London and Berlin and the American minister at Brussels.

Mr. Hoover, realizing that the United States might become involved in the war, obtained the patronage of the Spanish and Dutch ministers and ambassadors in London, Berlin and Brussels, and at every crisis which has threatened to draw America into the war the commission has had the support of the Spanish and Dutch diplomats.

Mr. Hoover, in a recent address in New York, said that, no matter what occurred in the relations between the United States and any of the belligerents, the feeding of the populations of Northern France and Belgium would go on.

OFFICIALLY REPORTED

TO STATE DEPARTMENT

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, February 12.—Explained by the German military authorities of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium and Northern France after its two and a half years of devoted service, during which the greatest and most sustained relief work in history was built up, was officially reported to the State Department to-day in a telegram from Ambassador Page in London. The news was received here with profound regret.

Officials here refuse comment. They say that the facts speak for themselves. Germany has made the position of American relief workers untenable, and the workers have been withdrawn. There is no recourse or palliative. The Americans who have been the backbone of the Belgian relief will retire. His successor has not been selected.

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Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND, VA., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1917.—TEN PAGES.

WEATHER PAGE 8—CLEAR

Financial News

The Times-Dispatch Reports
Are Authoritative

PRICE, TWO CENTS

Net Bars Entrance to Hampton Roads

Naval Patrol Boats to Be on
Duty Both Day and
Night.

CARRANZA IN ROLE AMERICAN SAILORS OF PEACEMAKER NOT YET RELEASED

In Identic Note to All Neutrals, Retention in Germany of Yar-
rowdale's Crew Amazes
European War.

WOULD CUT OFF EXPORTS TO MAKE PROTEST AT ONCE

Message Received in Wash-
ington With Mingled Amuse-
ment and Gravity.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, February 12.—Naval patrols in Mexico's de facto government entered the lists as an international peacemaker to-day. With an identic note to all neutrals, it proposed a joint effort to end the European war to follow, in the event of failure, by the cutting off of all exports of munitions and supplies to belligerents.

The communication was handed to the State Department by R. de Negre, chargé of the Carranza embassy here. It was received with expressions of mingled amusement and gravity in official quarters. There had been no decision to-night as to the American government's response, but the prevailing opinion was that Secretary Lansing would reply promptly and briefly, referring to the futile effort of President Wilson to bring about peace, and pointing out that under existing conditions any embargo on exports would be a breach of neutrality.

Among enterprising diplomats, Carranza's action was denounced as another evidence of German influence in Mexico and as a further effort to beset the issue and embarrass the United States in the situation resulting from Germany's new submarine campaign. Officials of the government were not so outspoken in voicing their opinions, but those who commented informally frankly expressed the same view.

SIMILAR PROPOSAL MADE

BY JOINT COMMISSION

It became known to-night that a proposal similar to the one now brought forward officially was made at one of the closing sessions of the Mexican-American Joint Commission which recently attempted to solve border difficulties. Luis Cabrera, Minister of Finance, in Carranza's Cabinet, and head of the Mexican commission, suggested to the Americans that he had hoped the commission not only would settle disputes between the United States and Mexico, but might bring peace to the world. An embargo on exports was his plan.

None of the bids, either the removal of the contents of the derelict or for building a truce through the surf, to the west, will be awarded, it was said, prior to the submission next Thursday of recommendations by Naval Constructor D. C. Nutting, Jr., who had made a complete survey of the cruiser. On Thursday also bids will be opened for salvaging the hull.

Some of the contractors are figuring on salvaging the Milwaukee by dredging a canal from where she lies to the breakers through the sands of the Samoa Peninsula to Humboldt Bay, a distance of 1,000 feet.

The recent heavy surf smashed a portion of the bulkhead built about the stranded submarine, but which local contractors are endeavoring to hoist on a cable preparatory to towing the vessel across the peninsula to the bay.

SAFEGUARD PANAMA CANAL

Drastic Provisions Contained in Exec-
utive Order Just Signed by
President.

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, February 12.—An executive order to exclude spies and other undesirable persons from the Panama Canal Zone and give to the governor virtually unlimited authority to regulate immigration there, has been signed by President Wilson.

The text of the document has not been made public, but it is understood to contain drastic provisions, very broad in terms, to prevent entry of persons who would be a menace to the general welfare. The order also contains a comprehensive provision for protection of the waterway. The Governor may exile any person convicted of a criminal offense or whose presence, in his judgment, would tend to create public disorder, or in any manner impede operation of the canal.

FEED AND PROLONG

GREAT CONFLAGRATION

The present European war seems to the whole world as a great conflagration, as a great plague that ought to have been isolated and limited long ago in order to shorten its duration and avoid its extension. Far from that, the commerce of the neutral countries of the whole world, and especially that of America, has a great responsibility before history, because all the neutral nations, more or less, have lent their assistance in money, in provisions, in munitions or in fact, and in this way have fed and prolonged this great conflagration.

"By reason of high human morals, and for their own national preservation, the neutral nations are obligated to abandon this procedure, and also to refuse to continue lending this assistance that has made possible the continuation of the war for over two years. To this end, the Mexican government, acting within the most strict respect for the sovereignty of the countries at war, inspired by the highest humanitarian sentiments, and guided at the same time by the sentiment of self-conservation and defense, permits itself to propose to the government of Your Excellency, as it is also doing to the other neutral governments, that, working in mutual accord and proceeding upon the basis of the most absolute equality for both groups of combatant powers, to invite them to put an end to the present war, either by themselves or taking advantage of the good offices or the friendly mediation of all the nations that joltly may accept this invitation.

TO CONFINE GREAT WAR WITHIN STRICT LIMITS

"If within a reasonable length of time peace cannot be established by this means, the neutral countries will then take the necessary measures in order to confine the conflagration to its strict limits, refusing to the belligerents all kinds of elements and stopping the merchant traffic with the nations of the world until the end of the war is achieved.

"The Mexican government recognizes that in its proposition it steps aside a little from the principles of international law, which until now have been in force in the relations of the neutrals with the belligerents, but we ought to recognize that the present European war is a conflict without any precedent in the history of humanity, which demands supreme effort and new remedies that cannot be found within the narrow and somewhat egotistic limits of international law as known up to date."

The government of Mexico under-

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